Visit of Chinese President

3088. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed during the recent visit of Chinese President and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that issue of civilian nuclear cooperation with China was discussed;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether boundary issues came up for discussion and if so, the result thereof; and

(e) whether relationship of two countries would be strengthened in view of the above?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the State visit of Chinese President to India in November, 2006, the two sides issued a Joint Declaration that spelt out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-china relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership.

The two sides agreed to hold regular summit level and other high-level meetings. They also agreed that comprehensive economic engagement is a core component of the partnership. A Bilateral investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was concluded during the visit The two sides agreed to set up an expert level mechanism to discuss cooperation regarding trans-border rivers. They established an India-China Partnership in Science and Technology. They also agreed to have regular consultations on issues pertaining to regional peace, security and stability. Thirteen bilateral documents were signed during this visit.

(b) and (c) The Joint Declaration states, "Considering that for both India and China, expansion of civilian nuclear energy programme is an essential and important component of their national energy plans to ensure energy security, the two sides agree to promote cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, consistent with their respective international commitments."

(d) During the visit, it was agreed that the early resolution of the boundary question would advance the basic interests of the two countries and should be pursued as a strategic objective. The Special Representatives on the boundary question were asked to intensify their work to arrive at a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles signed on 11 April, 2005.

(e) Yes.

Retrieving of 'Kacha Theevu' Island

3089. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to take up with Sri Lankan authorities retrieval of 'Kacha Theevu' from Sri Lanka which was gifted to them many decades back and which has now become a bone of contention;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976, the Kacha Theevu Island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Both these agreements were subsequently laid before the Parliament.

Suchetgarh-Nankana Sahib bus service

3090. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start **a** bus service between Suchetgarh (J&K) to Nankana Sahib (Pakistan) for the benefit of large number of Sikhs of J&K and neighbouring areas who go every year to